National Highways in Tamil Nadu

1800. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of roads in Tamil Nadu which have been declared as National Highways during the last three years;

(b) whether there is any proposal to convert the Madurai-Kottayam road link as National Highways; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to speed up the work keeping in view of the importance of this link between two neighbouring States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No road has been declared as a National Highway during the last three years in Tamil Nadu.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Token strike by University and College Teachers

1801. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that about two lakh teachers of universities and colleges all over the country went on a token strike on the 25th December, 1986;

(b) if so, what were the demands of these University and College teachers; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government towards their demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) According to information available, the All India Federation of University and College Teachers' Organisations and their State Units had given a call for a token strike on 25-2-87.

(b) and (c) The major demands of University and college teachers are immediate revision of their pay scales and modifications in some of the recommendations of the Mehrotra Committee Report on pay scales and conditions of service. The Report of the Mehrotra Committee which was appointed by UGC to recommend pay scales of teachers in universities and colleges is at the final stages of consideration.

Development of Telecommunications in Eastern and North-Eastern States

1802. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have given high priority to the development of telecommunications in the eastern and north-eastern States;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made so far in its implmentations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Only for North Eastern States.

(b) Plan proposals among other items envisage addition of about 26000 lines of switching capacity.

Conversion of about 17000 manual lines to auotomatic working.

Replacement of about 7000 lines.

Opening of new Digital Trunk Automatic Exchange (TAX) at Guwahati and Jorhat.

Opening of about 8 new telex exchanges and replacement of Guwahati Telex exchange by electronic telex exchange.